

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071892

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW
SUBJECT:WARSAW-BONN COOLNESS
REF: WARSAW 1887

1. HANS JUERGEN WISCHNIEWSKI, SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY AND SPD CONTACT MAN WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, TOLD LONG-TIME DEPT. OFFICER FRIEND IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE AT GERMAN EM-BASSY RECEPTION ON APRIL 8 THAT THE PRESENT COOLNESS IN FRG-POLISH RELATIONS WILL TAKE A LARGE TURN FOR THE BETTER LATER THIS WEEK WHEN RYSZARD FRELEK, CC SECRETARIAT DEPARTMENT CHIEF, ARRIVES IN BONN TO GIVE A HASTILY ARRANGED LECTURE. WISCHNIEWSKI ARRANGED THE LECTURE FOR FRELEK AT GIEREK'S URGING TRANSMITTED VERY RECENTLY BY POLISH AMB. PIATKOWSKI. WHILE WISCHNIEWSKI DOES NOT KNOW WHAT FRELEK WILL PROPOSE, HE BELIEVES THAT FRELEK WILL SEEK COMPROMISES ALLOWING PROGRESS ON EMIGRATION-CREDITS DEAL. IN ANY CASE, GIEREK'S MAY VISIT TO BONN IS DEFINITELY POSTPONED.

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2. WISCHNIEWSKI STATED THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT IS DEAD SET

AGAINST "COMPENSATION" PAYMENTS BUT CREDITS CAN BE USED AS A SUBSTITUTE. FURTHER, GERMAN DEMANDS ON EMIGRATION TOTALS ARE PROBABLY TOO HIGH AND ARE CAUSING GIEREK SERIOUS PROBLEMS. POLES TOLD WISCHNIEWSKI THAT MORE THAN 6000 HIGHLY SKILLED KATOWICE MINERS HAVE ASKED TO EMIGRATE AND WERE THIS TO BE ALLOWED, GIEREK WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. WISCHNIEWSKI STATED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD MADE ERRORS IN

THEIR DEMANDS. THE PROBLEM NOW IS TO REDEFINE POSITIONS ALLOWING BOTH SIDES TO COME TO A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AND PUBLICLY DEFENDABLE POSITIONS. CONCEIVABLY, THE HEALTH MINISTRIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT ENTER INTO AGREEMENT SO THAT THE FRG WOULD SUPPLY MEDICINES TO THE STILL LIVING VICTIMS OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WISCHNIEWSKI'S OPTIMISM IS AS USUAL INFECTIOUS, THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHY THE POLES WOULD BE WILLING TO BACK OFF ON COMPENSATION SO SOON AFTER RAKOWSKI'S ABLE EXPOSITION IN THE POLISH PUBLIC MEDIA. CONCEIVABLY, THE POLISH NEED FOR FRG CREDITS TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION IS SO STRONG THAT A RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES IS NECESSARY. HOWEVER, IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE POLES ARE PRESENTLY UNABLE TO PAY THE EMIGRATION PRICE ESPECIALLY IF THIS WOULD INVOLVE HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS, ESPECIALLY COAL MINERS. BY BACKING OFF ON COMPENSATION, THEY COULD HOPE TO REDUCE THE FRG FIGURE AND THEN MEET COMMITMENTS FROM LESS ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY. KISSINGER

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